Expenditure on making elementary education a fundamental right

1506. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to make elementary education a fundamental right the Union Government will have to spend over Rs. 40,000 crore; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Committee of State Education Ministers (Saikia Committee), set-up under the chairmanship of Shri Muhi Ram Saikia, the then the Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Education), to examine implications of the proposal to make elementary education a fundamental right, has, in its report, mentioned, inter-alia, that the requirement of additional funds, both for the Centre and the States/UTs, in five years to implement the proposal, would be Rs. 40,000/- crore approximately @Rs. 8,000/- crore per annum. These are however, only tentative estimates.

UN concern on Women's Empowerment

1507. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of United Nations Population Fund have recently expressed concern at women's empowerment, female literacy, property rights, legal protection to women in courts in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action proposed by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mismanagement in Lalit Kala Academy

1508. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of mismanagement in Lalit Kala Academy came to the notice of Government some time ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have recently initiated some steps for restructuring of the Academy and to have complete control over its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of complaints of mismanagement, irregularities, favouritism etc. by the then management of the Lalit Kala Academy was brought to the notice of the Government. Based on these complaints, a number of representations from Employees Union, and references from Hon'ble Members of Parliament, the Government ordered an administrative inquiry and a special audit of accounts of the Academy. The inquiry concluded that the management of the Lalit Kala Academy may be held responsible for flagrant violation of rules in order to favour certain officials/members of the General Council, mismanagement and misuse of the Government funds and breach of general principles of propriety and code of ethical and moral behaviour expected from the management of a National Academy.